

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 106142
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:ARA/ECA:RCGRAHAM

APPROVED BY:ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN

S/S-SESTEINER

-----102059Z 122244 /62

O 101948Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106142

EXDIS, FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT ASUNCION 1871 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
MAY 9TH.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 1871

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PA, OVIP (TODAMAN, TERENCE A.)

SUBJ: GOP REQUESTS TODMAN STOPOVER

REF: STATE 98404

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES CALLED ME EARLY MAY 9 AND SAID
THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY
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TODMAN, ON HIS CURRENT SWING THROUGH LATIN AMERICA, VISIT
PARAGUAY EVEN IF ONLY FOR A FEW HOURS. IN RELAYING
PRESIDENT'S REQUEST, FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES COMMENTED
THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD INFORMED HIM PERSONALLY THAT
PARAGUAY WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT VISIT BY A
HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL. MOREOVER, THE PRESIDENT HAD
FINALLY DECIDED TO PERMIT THE VISIT OF THE IAHR TO

PARAGUAY AND HE HAD DONE SO AT OUR URGING. CONSIDERING THE OLD FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN PARAGUAY AND THE U.S., NOGUES EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN WOULD BE ABLE TO STOPOVER IN ASUNCION BETWEEN BRASILIA AND LA PAZ.

2. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE LONG-STANDING RIVALRY BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND PARAGUAY, THE GOP IS ALWAYS UPSET IF PARAGUAY IS BYPASSED IN FAVOR OF BOLIVIA, AS HAPPENED DURING THE KISSINGER VISIT TO SANTA CRUZ. SECRETARY KISSINGER DID, IN FACT, PROMISE A VISIT TO PARAGUAY (SEE NODIS STATE 173551 OF 7/14/76).

3. TO KEEP OUR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE ROLLING, EVEN A SHORT VISIT FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN WOULD BE MOST WELCOME AND VERY USEFUL. THERE ARE FOUR EVENING FLIGHTS FROM ASUNCION TO LA PAZ ON MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY, DEPARTING ASUNCION AT 1930. AIR ATTACHE AIRCRAFT COULD BRING ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN FROM BRASILIA TO ASUNCION IN TWO HOURS. IN A TWO TO THREE HOUR STOPOVER IN ASUNCION, A VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER CAN BE ARRANGED WITH VERY FAVORABLE IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AND PARTICULARLY ON POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. LANDAU
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE106142
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/ECA:RCGRAHAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770164-1105
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770573/aaaacigt.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6f014597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 98404
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2579624
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP REQUESTS TODMAN STOPOVER
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PA, (TODMAN, TERENCE A)
To: CARACAS BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6f014597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009